

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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May 23, 2021

Taking A Dog By The Ears

"He that passes by and meddles with strife that does not belong to him is like one who takes a dog by the ears" (Proverbs 26:17)

Have you ever known anyone who just couldn't seem to stay out of other people's business? They enjoy gossip and thrive on turmoil. The apostle Paul calls them "busy bodies". These are people who do not have boundaries of their own and don't respect the boundaries that others do have.

I have thought of the above passage many times. One of our presidents was known for picking his dogs up by the ears. That's not a good thing to do. Neither is becoming embroiled in the conflicts that don't belong to us. Families that are highly enmeshed tend to function that way. What is one person's business becomes everyone's business. Anger, guilt, and fear are used to control one another.

Often these families have pseudo-intimate relationships. Talk of love is shallow and void of real meaning. True respect and intimacy escapes them. Scripture warns against hypocrisy or masking what is real. The apostle Paul encourages us to "let love be genuine" (Romans 12:9).

Tragically, the church sometimes has members who are pseudo-intimate with one another. Love for them is shallow. Minding the business of others is cloaked with a façade of caring language but lacks the depth of action. Talking replaces doing. When we really love one another we start where they are, we support one another, and we seek their good. Genuine love is not about what we get but what we give.

—Al

Church Services

Collective Worship on May 23 at 10:30 am only. No evening services or Bible classes at this time except the teens will meet at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. For your own safety and that of other worshippers, please follow recommended guidelines.

-Online Worship each Sunday morning on Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ website, YouTube, and Facebook.

-Karen Ferguson, friend of Phil and Carolyn Collier and frequent visitors with us, is suffering from an evolving hemorrhage in the brain.

-Carolyn Collier is recovering from a broken her hip in Athen, AL. They spend part of their time with us at the GSM church. Please pray for rapid healing.

-Pris Dick-continuing treatment for cancer. Prayers continue for her and Gary.

-Mark Haynes-keep him in prayer as he awaits test results for problems with his esophagus.

-Alan Cox—scheduled for knee surgery on June 3 to repair a torn ACL, meniscus, and ligaments on the sides of his knee.

-INDIA REPORT: Thank you! \$10,516.00 was contributed last week to provide Covid medical kits and oxygen for affected members of the church in the Rajamudry region of India. Our missionary, Raja Vijay Kumar, is purchasing the kits. Several have died, including another brother this week. We pray that this relief will help our church family there. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped. If you still wish to give you can do so this Sunday.

-Join us in person for worship as we look at **Great Women of the Bible**.

Our Known Sick

-Don Mayhall— still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.

-Hubert Compton—confined to home with health issues.

-June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

-Jeanette Dyer is struggling with several health issues.

-Linda Valentine— battling cancer.

-Anna Ruth Franklin— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf, - battling cancer

-Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt, is continuing to improve following colon cancer surgery. She still needs to gain weight to be able to receive needed treatment. Please keep Judy, Ron, Tracey, and their family in prayer. Her address is: Judy Pitt, 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-Edwin Anderson, Jim's son, will be having surgery on Wednesday in Fairfax, VA. He requests our prayers.

-Treavor Hayes, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue—preliminary report shows that his tumors are stable. His ophthalmologist is not recommending chemo for tumor on optic nerve at this time.

-Jan Luft, sister of some of George and Melanie's best friends in Michigan (Jim and Kim), is not doing well. Chemo has been stopped. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Chris Heathcox, brother-in-law of Bryan and Beth, is sufferin from pancreatic cancer and is having to increase his chemotherapy. This is a hard time for him and his wife, Bena. Please keep Chris and Bena in your prayers along with their children.

-George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson, is battling COPD and recently recovered from Covid. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Reggie Webber and his wife Judy. Is responding well to chemotherapy. They are friends of George and Melanie Tolliver and have visited our services in the past. Their address is 1503 Landmark, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Sunday AM Online Worship & Bible Class

Al is teaching an online Bible class on Sunday mornings that can be accessed beginning at 9:30 am. Current study is The Sermon on the Mount. Log in at www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com

Wednesday Night Bible Class

Danny Cline is leading our study in the gospel of Mark each Wednesday night by Zoom. Just respond to the email invitation to join the study at 6:45 each Wednesday night.

Ladies Bible Class

The weekly ladies class meets on Mondays from 6:45-7:45 pm EST by Zoom. Polly will be leading the study. Subject: "God's Unshakable Faithfulness." Please join in.

Teen Bible Class

Tomorrow at 9:30 in the fellowship hall.
Jacob Forman will be leading the class

Current Building Loan Balance

\$703,517.67

Additional Contributions Appreciated

Please advise us of bulletin news and illnesses by noon on Saturdays. Notifications can be sent to acbehel@gmail.com.

~~in turned to his younger brother and said,~~
Food Contact For Month: Tracey Kilberg

Elder Contact for Month: Mark Haynes (865-805-2293)

Online Sermon Topic: A.M.—"Great Women of the Bible-Esther" (Al)

In Person Worship: A.M.—"Great Women of the Bible-Esther" (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com